

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-29, 38, 40, 44-51, and 54-62 are pending in this application. Claims 12-16, 38, 40, and 44-51 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 4 and 41 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 7-11, and 38 have been amended.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in previously presented but now canceled claim 4 and in applicants' specification at [0046].

Claims 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to incorporate the requirements of base claim 1.

Claims 9-11 have been amended to make them depend from now independent claim 8.

Support for the amendment to claim 38 can be found in original but now canceled claim 41 and in applicants' specification at [0046].

The currently pending claim listing includes five independent claims. Applicants' originally filed application included five independent claims. Accordingly, applicants do not believe that an additional claims fee is due. If, however, the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, she is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

II. Claim Objections

Applicants acknowledge the objection to claims 4, 5, 7-11, 18-27, and 54-61 as being dependent from rejected base claims.

Claims 5, 7, and 8 have been amended to incorporate the requirements of base claim 1. Claims 9-11 have been amended to

depend from claim 8. In view of these amendments, applicants request withdrawal of the objections to claims 5 and 7-11.

Applicants submit that, for the reasons stated below, claim 1 is patentable. Accordingly, applicants request withdrawal of the objections to claims 18-27 and 5-61, which depend from claim 1.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Reconsideration is requested of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 17, 28, 29, and 62 as being anticipated by Eisenberg (U.S. 2005/0015854 A1).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitation from claim 4. Specifically, claim 1 now requires "...between about 0.1 and about 2 wt % iodine... ." Claim 4 was not rejected over the Eisenberg reference and was merely objected to in the latest Office Action as being dependent from a rejected base claim. Upon entering this amendment, applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the Eisenberg reference and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 3, 17, 28, 29, and 62 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1 and by virtue of the additional requirements therein.

IV. Elections/Restrictions

Claims 12-16, 38, 40, and 44-51 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to either a non-elected species or a restricted invention. Reconsideration is requested of the elections/restrictions.

For the reasons stated herein, claim 1 is submitted to be patentable. Claims 12-16, which were withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species, depend from claim 1 and are

therefore patentable for the same reasons as claim 1 and by virtue of the additional requirements therein. As stated on page 7 of the June 6, 2005 Office action,

Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

Applicants request that the Office rejoin claims 12-16 and withdraw the election of species requirement.

With regard to withdrawn process claim 38, it has been amended to include all of the limitations of product claim 1. As stated by the Office on page 3 of the Office Action mailed October 6, 2005, withdrawn process claims may be rejoined if the product claim is found allowable and if the process claims include all of the limitations of the allowable product claim. Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable, and the process claim 38 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, applicants request that the Office rejoin withdrawn process claim 38 and withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Claims 40 and 44-51 depend from claim 38. Accordingly, applicants request that the Office also rejoin these process claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants request allowance of the pending claims 1, 3, 5, 7-29, 38, 40, 44-51, and 54-62.

Applicants do not believe that a fee is due in connection with this response. If, however, the Commissioner determines that a fee is due, he is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

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